

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 13984

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT UR

SUBJECT: MORE ON KOSYGIN ILLNESS

REF: MOSCOW 13918

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. ANOTHER VERSION OF KOSYGIN ILLNESS FROM SOVIET SOURCE LEAVES LITTLE DOUBT ABOUT VICTOR LOUIS' KGB CONNECTION, AND TENDS TO CONFIRM THAT KOSYGIN IS STILL OUT OF ACTION. END SUMMAARY.

2. LO TIMES MOSCOW CORRESPONDENT BOB TOTH TOLD US SEPTEMBER 3 HE WAS GIVEN FOLLOWING VERSION OF KOSYGIN ILLNESS BY SOVIET SOURCE WHO ASKED HIM NOT TO USE IT WITHOUT CONFIRMATION: KOSYGIN WAS IN A BOAT ALONE IN LATE JULY, AND HAD AN ATTACK (OF UNSPECIFIED CHARACTER) WHICH CAUSED HIM TO TIP INTO WATER: HE DOES NOT LIKE BODYGUARDS, SO THERE WERE NONE AROUND, AND HE WAS PULLED FROM WATER AT THE BANK BY TWO CHILDREN; HE IS STILL IN THE HOSPITAL. ASKED ABOUT LOUIS VERSION DESCRIBING RESUSCITATION BY BODYGUARDS, SOURCE SAID THIS WAS OBVIOUS KGB SELF-PROMOTION (AND TRACK-COVERING).

3. TOTH SUBSCRIBES TO THESIS THAT JENIFER LOUIS RATHER
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THAN VICTOR PUT OUT THE STORY, BUT ASCRIBES LOUIS'

DENIAL OF HIS OWN ROLE, WHETHER OR NOT TRUE, TO BANAL
COYNESS: HE WAS CAUGHT WITH QUESTIONS AS HE STEPPED OFF
THE PLANE FROM SIBERIA.

4. FRG SCI COUNSELOR TOLD OURS SEPTEMBER 2 THAT RECENT FRG
DINNER INVITATION TO SCST DEPUTY (AND KOSYGIN SON-IN-
LAW)GVISHIANI HAS BEEN DECLINED ON GROUNDS THAT GVISHIANI
IS PREOCCUPIED WITH KOSYGIN'S HEALTH.

5. COMMENT. WHILE THESE DETAILS CAST PERHAPS SOME MORE
LIGHT ON HOW KOSYGIN BECAME ILL, THEY ARE MORE INTERESTING
FOR STRONG SUGGESTION THAT HE IS STILL AILING ENOUGH
TO FORCE ADJUSTMENTS, LIKE TIKHONOV'S APPOINTMENT, TO
FILL WORKLOAD GAP AT LEAST UNTIL HE RECOVERS.
STOESSEL

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